

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Claims 7-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,065,094 to Akiyama et al. (hereinafter "Akiyama").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants amend claim 7 and the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 27 of the specification as recommended by the Examiner during a telephone interview with Applicants' undersigned representative on April 7, 2005. Moreover, claim 12 is amended in light of the amendments to claim 7. Accordingly, claims 7-12 remain currently pending for consideration.

Statement of the Substance of the Telephone Interview with Examiner Patel

Examiner Gautam Patel is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during a telephone interview on April 7, 2005. An Interview Summary form (PTOL-413) was mailed by the USPTO on April 11, 2005.

This telephone interview was initiated by Examiner Patel when he contacted Applicants' undersigned representative in order to discuss various issues addressed in the Amendment previously filed on November 15, 2004.

With regard to the outstanding drawing objections, the Examiner suggested that the "judging device" issue could be resolved by simply adding some language to the specification regarding this feature. In particular, Applicants' undersigned representative reached agreement with the Examiner that this issue could be resolved by amending line 26 of page 5 of the specification to read "...accordance with a command from the player controller 16, which

operates as a judging device.” This amendment is incorporated into the specification by the instant Supplemental Amendment thereby obviating the drawing objection in this regard.

Moreover, with regard to the outstanding drawing objection regarding the “expander” issue, Examiner Patel suggested implementing a further change to previously amended claim 7. In particular, Applicants’ undersigned representative reached agreement with the Examiner that this issue could be resolved by amending “a decoding device for decompressing” in claim 7 to --a decoding device for demodulating-- in light of the Examiner’s concerns. The Examiner pointed to page 9, lines 4-11 as an example of why he believes this change should be made. Accordingly, this amendment has been incorporated into claim 7 by the instant Supplemental Amendment thereby obviating the drawing objection in this regard.

Applicants’ undersigned representative then emphasized the arguments as-filed at pages 9-10 of the Amendment on November 15, 2004 regarding how Akiyama differs from the claims of this application. After this discussion, the Examiner showed some signs of being initially persuaded by these arguments, but noted that he would need to review Akiyama in more detail before making any patentability conclusions.

During this April 7, 2005 telephone interview, only independent claim 7 was reviewed with the Examiner. However, after the interview, Applicants reviewed the dependent claims and noted that certain changes to dependent claim 12 should be made in light of the amendments to independent claim 7 on November 15, 2004 and in the instant Supplemental Amendment. Accordingly, claim 12 is also amended in the instant paper.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding issues have now been resolved in a manner consistent with the April 7, 2005 telephone interview with Examiner Patel. Accordingly, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections are

respectfully requested. As noted above, Applicants maintain the traversal of the rejection of claims 7-12 are under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Akiyama for the reasons set forth in the Amendment previously filed on November 15, 2004.

Conclusion

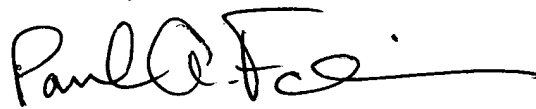
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the objections and rejections and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should there remain any questions or comments regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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